

# *Southern Conservation District*

## Board Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2026

10:00 AM

The Southern Conservation District Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, May 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room of the District Office, located at 463 Ragland Road. Beckley, WV 25801.

### **Those in Attendance:**

#### Supervisors:

Randall Patton, Chair

F. William Harris, Vice-Chair

Edgar Hendrick, Secretary

John Farrell

Bill Cook

Randy Prince

Rachel Prince (Teleconference)

Curtis Murphy

Ron Testerman

Steven Johnston

#### Others:

Jesus Nandi Roman, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Morgan Dial, WVCA

Shane Pettrey, WVCA

Brian Fry, WVCA

Dave Parkulo, SCD

John Wooton, SCD Attorney

Katy McBride, NRCS

Heather Duncan, WVACD

James E. Gaal, Visitor/Summers County

Open & Welcome

Randall Patton, Chair

Ron Testerman led in prayer, and Edgar Hendrick led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Southern Conservation District Operations and Business**

#### **LORS**

*A motion was made by F. William Harris to approve the FY27 District Support Allotments as presented, including the following:*

- FY27 Q1 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$47,163.00 (LOR ID: 16527)
- FY27 Q2 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$26,750.00 (LOR ID: 16528)
- FY27 Q3 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$26,749.00 (LOR ID: 16529)
- FY27 Q4 District Support Allotment in the amount of \$18,703.00 (LOR ID: 16530)

*The total FY27 allotment approved under AGR 1024-09 is \$119,365.00. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

*Following the review, Curtis Murphy made a motion to approve the April 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.*

*Following the review, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve the April 30, 2026, Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes. Edgar Hendrick seconded, motion carried.*

#### **Review/Approval of April Financial Reports**

*Following the review of SCD April 2026 Reconciliations and Financial Statements, Randy Prince moved to approve the reports as presented. Steven Johnston seconded, motion carried.*

#### **Approval of Aging Summary/Accounts Receivable**

Dave Parkulo, SCD

*Following the review, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve the aging summary and accounts receivable as presented. Edgar Hendrick seconded, motion carried.*

#### **Review/Approval of Co-Administered WVCA Financial Reports**

*Following the review, Randy Prince made a motion to approve the Co-Administered WVCA financial reports as presented. John Farrell seconded, motion carried.*

#### **Conservation Supervisor Technician Report:**

Dave Parkulo, SCD

Dave Parkulo reported on the status of all maintenance projects, noting that all primary mowing and channel work for the 12 dams, including Cranberry Creek and Little White Stick, has been completed. Current efforts are focused on final tasks, such as removing fallen trees and addressing a beaver dam on Brush Creek 12. Dave Parkulo detailed upcoming projects scheduled for completion before the June 12 deadline, including a sediment removal project at Little White

Stick to improve stream flow. He noted that while stabilization work at DF/CF may extend past the deadline, all routine spring maintenance is on track. The Board subsequently approved the project estimates and invoices as presented, except for fall mowing, which was deferred due to ongoing regulatory uncertainty.

***Following Dave Parkulo's report, F. William Harris made a motion to approve all work orders as identified for submission. Randy Prince seconded, motion carried.***

Conservation Specialist Report:

Brian Fry, WVCA

Brian Fry presented the cost share report for May 14, 2026, outlining several payment approvals for nutrient management and soil health practices. Nutrient management payments were approved for Gerald W. Nunn, John Scott Jr., Richard D. Thomason, Sky Gwinn, and Harold W. Wright, while a soil health payment was approved for William Harris. Additionally, cancellations were approved for Joseph Golden, Teresa Ann Butts, and Robert D. Hornsby following direct communications in early May. Under delegated authority, Curtis Murphy approved nutrient management payments for Barry McCoy, Vincent Miller, and Kitty Gunnoe on May 6, 2026. As of mid-May, 21 of 28 producers had completed their nutrient management practices, with 4 producers still needing to submit fertilizer receipts and 4 more working toward the May 22 deadline. To date, the district has received 24 of the 28 required nutrient management landowner agreements. Financial records indicate that \$23,097.93 has been spent on nutrient management, exceeding the required state fund allocation of \$21,392.14, for a total expenditure of \$24,837.00, including \$1,739.07 for forest stewardship. A copy of Brian Fry's report is attached below.

***Following Brian Fry's cost-share report, Steven Johnston made a motion to approve the presented payments, during which F. William Harris exited the room to avoid a conflict of interest as a program participant. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. Once the voting process concluded and the motion was finalized, Mr. Harris re-entered the meeting, and proceedings continued.***

***Following the review of cancellations, Steven Johnston made a motion to accept and approve all applicant cancellations. Edgar Hendrick Seconded. Motion carried.***

District Conservationist Report:

Katy McBride, NRCS

Katy McBride presented the District Conservationist report for May 2026, noting that staff conducted 14 field visits in Beckley and 10 in Princeton. The Princeton field office is currently managing 11 EQIP pre-approvals and has written five conservation plans covering 475.5 acres, while the Beckley office is working on six EQIP pre-approvals and has completed one conservation plan. On May 12, the offices were notified of several CSP-NIPF pre-approvals, including six in Princeton and nine in Beckley. Practice completions totaled \$9,938.35 in Princeton and \$36,093.25 in Beckley. Ongoing priorities include contract maintenance, marking trees for forest stand improvement, and surveying for LWS projects. Recent staff activities

included attending the Appalachian Grazing Conference, assisting with the land-judging and homesite-evaluation contest, and participating in the Grazing Lands Steering Committee meeting. Statewide, NRCS has allocated significant funding for FY26, including \$10.4 million for CSP and \$22.3 million for EQIP, with the goal of obligating all funds by July 30, 2026. Additionally, 25% of this funding is targeted toward the Regenerative Pilot Program, which requires producers to complete soil health testing through a qualified individual. Emergency Watershed Program projects are also scheduled to resume or begin in Braxton, Kanawha, and McDowell Counties throughout May and June. A copy of Katy McBride's report is attached below.

Area Operations Manager Report:

Jeremy Salyer, WVCA

Jeremy Salyer reminded the Board that the District's annual work plan is due to the state by June 30, though it was noted that the plan had likely been submitted alongside other administrative documents a few months prior. He acknowledged the Board's significant concerns regarding the transition of authority to the state and promised to relay their feedback to state leadership. Specifically, the discussion emphasized the importance of maintaining local agreements and of utilizing the District's established expertise and equipment, rather than moving toward a model in which all work is contracted out. Members stressed that the potential loss of these local efficiencies would likely be a significant issue for local sponsors, a consequence that may not have been fully anticipated during the legislative process.

WV Association of Conservation Districts

Executive Director Report:

Heather Duncan, WVACAD

Heather Duncan presented the May 2026 WVACD report, highlighting that the upcoming July quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 22-23 at the Bridgeport Conference Center. The report also provided a summary of the WV Envirothon held at Camp Caesar, where Morgantown High School won out of 20 competing teams and will represent the state at the NCF Envirothon in July. Regarding upcoming regional and national events, the Northeast NACD conference will be held in Wilmington, Delaware, from August 24-27, and the NACD Spring Fly-In is set for March 25. Duncan also noted that the WV State Fair is scheduled for August 13-22, 2026, and that booth signups are currently being coordinated through her office. Several grant opportunities were detailed, including the SMART Farms WV Grant for establishing native warm-season grasses and GLCI grants, which provide up to \$3,000 for conservation districts to host workshops on grazing and soil health. Finally, the Board was reminded to finalize their WVACD director selections following the primary elections and submit those names to the nominating committee prior to the July 1 deadline.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

***Upon the completion of all agenda items, Randy Prince made a motion to adjourn the Southern Conservation District's May 14, 2026, regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:45:22 EST.***

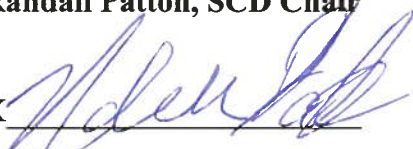
**Dates To Remember:**

SCD Committee Meeting: May 26, 2026, at 10:00 AM @ 463 Ragland Rd, WV, 25801.

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Respectfully Submitted: Jesus Nandi Roman, West Virginia Conservation Agency,  
Administrative Specialist

**Randall Patton, SCD Chair**

X 

**Edgar Hendrick, SCD Secretary**

X 

RP/EH/AS

MOTIONS SUMMARY  
Southern Conservation District  
Regular Board Meeting  
May 14, 2026

**A motion was made by F. William Harris to approve the FY27 District Support Allotments as presented, including the total FY27 allotment approved under AGR 1024-09 for \$119,365.00. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by Curtis Murphy to approve the April 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by Steven Johnston to approve the April 30, 2026, Special Board/Committee Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by Randy Prince to approve the SCD April 2026 Reconciliations and Financial Statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Steven Johnston and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by Steven Johnston to approve the aging summary and accounts receivable as presented. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by Randy Prince to approve the Co-Administered WVCA financial reports as presented. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried. (Page 2)**

**A motion was made by F. William Harris to approve all mowing work orders for submission. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried. (Page 3)**

**A motion was made by Steven Johnston to approve the presented cost-share payments for nutrient management and soil health. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 3)**

**A motion was made by Steven Johnston to accept and approve all applicant cancellations. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 3)**

**A motion was made by Randy Prince to approve maintaining the same Local Working Group structure and priorities as last year, in lieu of a new meeting. The motion was seconded by Ron Testerman and carried. (Page 5)**

MOTIONS SUMMARY, Continued  
Southern Conservation District  
Regular Board Meeting  
May 14, 2026

**A motion was made by Randy Prince to approve a \$100 sponsorship for 4-H T-shirts from the CDO account. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 5)**

**A motion was made by Steven Johnston to initiate the drought program. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried. (Page 5)**

**A motion was made by F. William Harris to approve the lease agreement extension as presented. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried. (Page 6)**

**A motion was made by F. William Harris to cash out three O&M restricted CDs totaling over \$1,000,000 and transfer them into the Projects Account sub-account. The motion was seconded by Randy Prince and carried. (Page 6)**

**A motion was made by Edgar Hendrick to approve all district personnel pay raises for the following pay period as presented. The motion was seconded by John Farrell and carried. (Page 6)**

**A motion was made by Randy Prince to adjourn the May 14, 2026, regular board meeting. The motion was seconded by Edgar Hendrick and carried. (Page 7)**

# May 14, 2026, CS Report

## 1. Payment Approvals (M)

- NM – Gerald W. Nunn, Cost Share Amount \$785.00
- NM – John Scott Jr. Cost Share Amount \$1,500.00
- NM – Richard D Thomason, Cost Share Amount \$892.86
- NM – Sky Gwinn, Cost Share Amount \$706.50
- NM – Harold W. Wright, Cost Share Amount \$1,500.00
- Soil Health – William (Bill) Harris, Cost Share Amount \$500.00

## 2. Cancellations for Approval (M)

- Joseph Golden – NM for \$1,177.50, Spoke to on 5/6/26
- Teresa Ann Butts- NM approved for \$1,500.00, Spoke to on 5/7/26
- Robert D. Hornsby – NM Cost Share Amount \$549.50, Spoke to on 5/13/26

## 3. Payment Approvals Made by Curtis Murphy with delegated Authority

- NM – Barry McCoy, Cost Share amount \$449.44 – Approval date 5/6/26
- NM – Vincent Miller, Cost Share Amount \$1,491.50 - Approval date 5/6/26
- NM – Kitty Gunnoe, Cost Share Amount \$1,457.00 – Approval date 5/6/26

4. As of Wednesday 5/13/26, twenty-one out of twenty-eight producers have completed their Nutrient Management practice and have received a check or are in the process of receiving a check. I am currently waiting on four producers to turn receipts for fertilizer. Three producers have cancelled and I am waiting for four more to complete the practice. All these producers were called at the end of April and informed of the May 22 deadline for completion.

## 5. Landowner Agreements

- To date, 24 of 28 Landowner Agreements for Nutrient Management have been received.

6. Funds spent to date – NM \$23,097.93    State Funds that needed spent - \$21,392.14

FS \$ 1,739.07

Total spent -    \$ 24,837.00

## Southern Conservation District DC Monthly Report

May 2026

- **Field Visits**

Beckley: 14

Princeton: 10

- **Planning Status**

Princeton Field Office: Working on 11 EQIP Pre-Approvals (notified on 5/11)

-Conservation Plans Written for EQIP: 5 (for 475.5 acres)

-Notified on 5/12 of 6 CSP-NIPF Pre-Approvals

Beckley Field Office: Working on 6 EQIP Pre-Approvals (notified on 5/11)

-Conservation Plans Written: 1 (for 0.5 acres)

-Notified on 5/12 of 9 CSP-NIPF Pre-Approvals

- **Completed Practices**

Princeton: \$9,938.35 (106,165,512,314,666,645,647)

Beckley: \$36,093.25 (642,533,516,614,561,574,441,382,558,620,590,449)

- **Field Office Priorities**

- Working with Area Office on Contract Maintenance (Modifications, 153s, Cancellations, Terminations, etc.).

- Working on developing Conservation Plans and Contracts for FY26 Pre-Approvals (EQIP, CSP, and AMA)

- Marking trees for FSI practice.

- Scheduling field visits to survey and design LWS projects

-Working with SCD on scheduling the LWG meeting / review last year's information

- **Upcoming Deadlines**

- **Upcoming Events**

- **Special Projects / Updates / Trainings**

- Set up NRCS Display at the WV Beef Expo (April 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>)

- Attended Monthly WVSU/NRCS Community Educator Check-In Meetings

- Staff attended AGC (Appalachian Grazing Conference) on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Lewisburg

- Staff assisted with the SCD & GVCD Landjudging and Homesite Evaluation Contest at the PMC on May 5<sup>th</sup>

- Attended Grazing Lands Steering Committee Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> (to discuss the WV Grassland Evaluation Contest which will be held on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, location TBD)

- Beth attended the Urban Ag Extension Conference the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>

- Provided SCD with potential farmers for Conservation Farm Contest

- **Staffing Updates**

- No new updates

## Area Conservationist's Bimonthly Report

May/June 2026

### Program Priorities

Field staff are working on completing field visits, planning, assessment, and ranking for applications received by January 15<sup>th</sup> for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA). West Virginia was allocated \$10.4 million for CSP, \$22.3 million EQIP, and \$485 thousand for AMA. We have 403 eligible CSP applications, 1237 eligible EQIP applications, and 192 eligible AMA applications statewide. Our assessment and ranking deadline is May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with funding approvals announced May 8<sup>th</sup>. We plan to obligate all funds into contracts with participants by July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Twenty five percent of CSP and EQIP funding will be targeted to USDA's Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), which aims to restore land health, improve long-term productivity, and ensure American grown production for the future.

As part of participating in Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must complete a Soil Health Testing (CEMA 216) through a "Qualified Individual (QI)". A QI ensures proper soil sampling, packaging, timely submission to the labs, and provide data interpretation. QIs may be certified professionals, degree holders, or experienced technicians. Conservation Districts can play an integral in identifying QIs for our shared customers. If you're interested in learning more about how districts can be involved in this process, please reach out to your District or Area Conservationist.

### Local Work Group Meetings

Over the next few months, our District Conservationists will be assisting Conservation Districts to hold Local Working Group (LWG) meetings in each of the 14 Districts. These LWG meetings are an essential component in NRCS programming. We rely on local input to help set program priorities and focus funding to directly meet locally identified resource concerns.

Elk- March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm  
Monongahela- April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm  
Tygarts Valley- April 9<sup>th</sup> @6pm  
Upper Ohio- April 21<sup>st</sup> @10pm  
Western- April 28<sup>th</sup> @9am  
Northern Panhandle- May 14<sup>th</sup> @9am  
Guyan- May15th @4pm

### Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)

Several EWP projects will be starting (or restarting) over the next few months. Work will resume on sites in Braxton and Kanawha Counties in May, while work on other sites in Kanawha and McDowell will begin in June. Sites identified in Mineral and Ohio Counties will begin construction later this summer.



## May 2026 Board Report from Heather Duncan, WVACD Executive Director

### April Quarterly Meeting

A HUGE thank you to the Eastern Panhandle CD for organizing the tour and to Martin's Elevator, Inc for their monetary meeting sponsorship. It was a great meeting and a fantastic tour as well. We also want to recognize Jim Foster, WFCO, for his many years of wisdom and leadership. John Pitsenbarger and Larry Greynolds were formally recognized for their lifetime memberships.

Key highlights from the meeting: The 2026 July meeting will be held the 22-23 at the Bridgeport Conference Center. October 28-29 meeting will be held in conjunction with the WVCAC luncheon at Cedar Lakes. The 2027 April meeting will be virtual only and the winter meeting will be a one day meeting at the WVACD office in the day prior to Ag/Conservation Day.

### WV Envirothon

We had 20 teams compete from 12 CDs compete at Camp Caesar. Congratulations to a team from Morgantown High School (Morgantown 1) who won and will compete in the NCF Envirothon in Mississippi in July.

### Farm of the Year Contest

Please think ahead about the farm of the year contest and who would be eligible. It's never too early to begin planning! WV Conservation Awards Council will only be providing awards for the state level of the contest.

### NE NACD Meeting

It is quickly approaching for the NE NACD conference that will be held in Wilmington, DE August 24-27. The meeting looks to be timely on topics and is relatively close for everyone to travel to. More information can be found here:

<https://dacdnet.org/2026nacdne/>. Also, if you're interested in helping to plan the WV 2028 conference, please let me know. The next meeting will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

### Magnets Available!

WVACD has wooden magnets for sale! They are made right here in St. Albans! They are available for \$5 each. The proceeds will go to further our mission and goals. A picture has been sent to AS' and also included in the quarterly newsletter. They are housed at the WVACD office and can be purchased there.

### NACD Spring Fly In

The NACD Spring Fly In will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming about this event. It's a great way to see the federal government in action and also a great way to meet fellow conservation district supervisors from across the nation. I think it is a very worthwhile event to attend at least once. Last year it was a special treat to be in town when the cherry blossoms were blooming!

### WVACD Membership and Sponsorships Available

Half-off sponsorships are available along with a BOGO on WVACD membership. Contact Heather for more information! These memberships and sponsorship assist with the general budget, meetings, outreach activities, and supervisor support.

### Sustainable Management in Agriculture using Regenerative Techniques Grant (SMART Farms WV Grant)

This grant is through NASDA and is available to non-Chesapeake Bay draining counties to establish native warm season grasses into pastures and log landing sites focusing on Historically Underserved producers. This grant is a partnership with WVCA, WVACD, and WVDOF. This is a great grant to reach out to someone who is not currently a cooperator with the district to help get their foot in the door. Please contact myself or Dylan Johnson, WVCA, for more information.

## **Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)**

This grant is housed by WVCA with funding coming from NRCS. This is to develop conservation district field days, create learning stations, and hold virtual pasture walk. \$3,000 is available to conservation districts to host a workshop on grazing and soil health topics. Conservation districts may combine funding and workshops to host a larger scale event. \$400 is available for a learning station at the conservation district office.

## **Grasslands Committee**

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Grasslands Committee, please let Heather know. The committee would like to see 1-2 supervisor members from each conservation district represented. Currently, the committee meets quarterly at the WVACD office and a virtual option is available as well. Please contact Heather or committee chair, Jim Anderson for more information. Please be sure to have teams show their interest soon!

## **WV State Fair Signups**

The WV State Fair will be held August 13-22, 2026. Heather Duncan will handle all signups this year. Please email her with the times and dates you are available to assist in covering the booth. The signup sheet can be found on the WVACD website for availability.

## **WVACD Communication and Outreach Employees**

Please do not forget to contact Julie Simmons ([wvacdoutreach2@wvacd.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:wvacdoutreach2@wvacd.onmicrosoft.com)) and Vanta Coda ([wvacdoutreach@wvacd.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:wvacdoutreach@wvacd.onmicrosoft.com)) for your outreach needs. Rather it's developing printed or online materials, assisting with outreach events, or coming up with ideas to reach new producers or CSP outreach, they are here to help!

## **Membership and Educational Needs**

If you would like to discuss your membership needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Also, please let me know what other continuing education and training you need to be a better supervisor and/or director. I especially want to hear what type of training, educational events, and the format you would like to see at quarterly meetings. We've had in depth and updates at various quarterly meetings, but I'm still hearing there are questions and confusion even with offering various topics of concern.

## **Upcoming Dates**

April 30-May 2: Appalachian Grazing Conference Tour  
May 6: Envirothon Committee Meeting, WVACD Office, 10 am  
May 6: 2028 NACD NE Planning Meeting, WVACD Office, 12:30 pm  
May 8: Grasslands Committee Meeting, 10 am  
May 12: PRIMARY DAY  
May 15: State Fair Committee Meeting, 8:30 am  
May 22: AGC Committee Meeting, 10 am

*\*\*Please remember to think about your upcoming WVACD directors after primaries close. If your boards could vote on your directors in May/June meetings and send those results ASAP to Heather, it would be appreciated. It is an election year and the nominating committee will need a list of all directors prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.*